AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) A method for producing a belt for an image forming apparatus, comprising:

applying a release layer containing a fluoropolymer onto a die surface of a shaping die;

baking said release layer;

applying an elastic layer over a surface of said release layer;

baking said elastic layer;

applying a supporting layer containing heat-resistant synthetic resin over a surface of said elastic layer;

baking said supporting layer;

removing unevenness of said supporting layer; and

releasing said release layer, said elastic layer and said supporting layer from said die surface.

33. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises polishing said supporting layer.

34. (New) The method according to claim 33, further comprising:

during or after releasing said release layer, said elastic layer and said supporting layer from said die surface, turning said release layer, said elastic layer and said supporting layer inside out as one body.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein

the belt for the image forming apparatus is one of a fixing belt and a transferring belt.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing from said supporting layer a portion having a thickness of approximately 10 μm.

37. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

38. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein

said supporting layer is to be supported on a roller by being in contact with the roller.

39. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein

said supporting layer has a surface roughness that is less than a surface roughness of the support roller, and

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

40. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein

baking said supporting layer and removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing unevenness of said supporting layer and then baking said supporting layer.

41. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein

the belt for the image forming apparatus is one of a fixing belt and a transferring belt.

42. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing from said supporting layer a portion having a thickness of approximately 10 μm.

43. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

44. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein

said supporting layer is to be supported on a roller by being in contact with the roller.

45. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein

said supporting layer has a surface roughness that is less than a surface roughness of the support roller, and

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

46. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein

baking said supporting layer and removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing unevenness of said supporting layer and then baking said supporting layer.

47. (New) The method according to claim 32, further comprising:

during or after releasing said release layer, said elastic layer and said supporting layer from said die surface, turning said release layer, said elastic layer and said supporting layer inside out as one body.

48. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein

the belt for the image forming apparatus is one of a fixing belt and a transferring belt.

49. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing from said supporting layer a portion having a thickness of approximately 10 μm.

50. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

51. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein

said supporting layer is to be supported on a roller by being in contact with the roller.

52. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein

said supporting layer has a surface roughness that is less than a surface roughness of the support roller, and

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

53. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein

baking said supporting layer and removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing unevenness of said supporting layer and then baking said supporting layer.

54. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

the belt for the image forming apparatus is one of a fixing belt and a transferring belt.

55. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing from said supporting layer a portion having a thickness of approximately 10 μm.

56. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

57. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing from said supporting layer a portion having a thickness of approximately 10 μm.

58. (New) The method according to claim 57, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

59. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

60. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

said supporting layer is to be supported on a roller by being in contact with the roller.

61. (New) The method according to claim 60, wherein

said supporting layer has a surface roughness that is less than a surface roughness of the support roller, and

removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

62. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

baking said supporting layer and removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing unevenness of said supporting layer and then baking said supporting layer.